CIA-ITT (which gets away from Kleindienst), or can there be any hope in the press?

"Agronsky & Co." is a Saturday evening WTOP-TV (Wash. Post) after-the-news show that is supposedly carefully balanced, always has four participants, and often deals with current issues. At the end of those today they got to ITT, without a single mention of Kleindienst, with the "liberal" Agronsky asking the question in terms of CIA-ITT. Tonight's panels were Crosby Noyes and James J. Kilpatrick (this week's White House guest, along with David Green, when the President of Turkey was there) on the right and Peter Lisagor and Carl Rowan on the "liberal" side.

Considering recent developments in the ITT case, there was hotter news, more immediate angles, but it was put in these terms.

I can't recall another single question on which all four agree, even in the formulation of the defense, if not the designed and intended defense, of the CIA and US corporations.

Rowan, the great liberal, started it by saying he didn't know that any of the things in the memos are true. He, joined be each of the others, didn't question their genuineness. Instead they all decided that this had to be the self-serving outpouring of men earning their fat check. The closest any came to even suggesting anything like this had ever happened is Lisagor, who made passing reference to Guatemala only and in a manner to be taken by the average listener as an isolated case.

They vied with each other in believing that no such thing happened, it was just the self-puffery of the wage-earner.

Earlier, Noyes had alleged that in Florida Muskie became the candidate of the left, which is an adequate self-description. If he had not been born into the Star, it is doubtful he could have made it as copy boy, instead of foreign editor. But the others lay claim to intellect and experience.

Can it possibly be they know so little of recent history, have read so little of the writing of their peers, if not their own, like Ross and Wise, certainly well-known to all?

It may well be that this is an accidental selection of subject, but were it not and were the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to see it, how encouraged would they be to press, especially in an election year, with the agree investigation of the influence of large corporations on policy, the proposal of Church (who should thereby become subcommittee chairman)?

CBS net TV news aired the ITT flack in a statement (he refused to answer any questions) quoted two separate questioned-documents experts as saying the Beard memo was written not longer ago than this past January. Expert of this kind taking issue with Lower? Rare. But is intl, etc., the way to test the authenticity of such documents?